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Economic and Social Council

Provisional

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Organizational session for 2007

Provisional summary record of the 11th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 26 April 2007, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Čekuolis ..... (Lithuania)

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Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

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07-31780 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*) (E/2007/2/Rev.1 and E/2007/12; E/2007/L.1, L.3, L.4 and L.5)

Draft decision E/2007/L.3: Economic and Social Council event to discuss relief to development

1. **The President** drew attention to the draft decision contained in document E/2007/L.3, which had been submitted on the basis of informal consultations conducted by the Permanent Missions of Iceland and Algeria.

2. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Council) noted that the heading of the draft decision should also reflect the name of Vice-President of the Council Youcef Yousfi (Algeria) in addition to that of Hjálmar Hannesson (Iceland).

3. *Draft decision E/2007/L.3, as orally revised, was adopted.*

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its ninth session

4. **The President** drew attention to two draft decisions submitted by Vice-President of the Council Léo Mérorès (Haiti) on the basis of informal consultations.

Draft decision E/2007/L.4: Participation of non-governmental organizations and civil society entities in the tenth and eleventh sessions of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

5. *Draft decision E/2007/L.4 was adopted.*

Draft decision E/2007/L.5: Participation of business sector entities including the private sector in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

6. *Draft decision E/2007/L.5 was adopted.*

7. **Mr. Shimada** (Japan) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on draft decision E/2007/L.5 on the understanding that the business-sector members of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) could participate in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development under either the procedure set forth in subparagraph (a) or the procedure set forth in subparagraph (b) of the decision, even though the words "ITU sector members" were not specifically mentioned.

8. **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, thanked the representative of Austria and Vice-President Mérorès for their very successful facilitation efforts on the two decisions.

Draft proposals submitted by the President and members of the Bureau on the basis of informal consultations held pursuant to paragraph 2 (l) of Council decision 1988/77 (E/2007/L.1)

Draft decision IX: Theme for the item on regional cooperation of the 2007 substantive session of the Council

9. **The President** recalled that the executive secretaries of the regional commissions had proposed the theme "Regional dimension of strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through partnership for development at regional level" for the interregional discussion to be held during the Council's 2007 substantive session. During extensive informal consultations many amendments had been proposed, but none of the proposals had met with consensus. In order to resolve the issue, he would suggest one of two approaches. The Council could either follow its traditional practice of accepting the theme proposed by the regional commissions, or it could invite the regional commissions to have a dialogue on the two themes already agreed upon by the Council for its substantive session.

10. **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group was ready to accept the theme proposed by the regional commissions with a slight modification, already agreed upon in relation to the theme for the annual ministerial review: instead of "through partnership for development" the phrase should read "through the global partnership for development".

11. **Mr. Graf** (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union had stated on many occasions that the Council should follow its long-standing tradition of taking up the regional cooperation theme proposed by the executive secretaries of the regional commissions. That approach had been very useful in the past and had added value to the dialogue between the Council and the regional commissions, which had the best insight into what they could contribute to the high-level segment.

12. **The President** said that, since there was still no consensus on the original proposal of the regional commissions, his specific proposal was that the Council should adopt an oral decision with the following wording:

> "The Economic and Social Council decides that the theme for the item on regional cooperation of the 2007 substantive session of the Council will be 'Regional dimension of the themes of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council's 2007 substantive session'."

13. The decision would include a footnote indicating the theme for the thematic discussion, "Strengthening efforts at all levels to promote pro-poor sustained economic growth, including through equitable macroeconomic policies", and the theme for the annual ministerial review, "Strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development".

14. The Council could thus capitalize on its work in arriving at those themes. Moreover, focusing on two themes would make the work of its substantive session more productive and achieve greater coherence between the Council and the regional commissions. The decision could set a precedent that would avoid a similar impasse in future years.

15. **Mr. Miller** (United States of America) said that his delegation found the President's proposal acceptable and a useful precedent for future years.

16. **Mr. Graf** (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the Union still preferred the original proposal of the regional commissions, but in a spirit of flexibility it might be able to agree to the President's proposal.

17. **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, asked for time for consultations within the group.

The meeting was suspended at 3.45 p.m. and resumed at 4.25 p.m.

18. **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group was ready to accept the theme proposed by the President with one slight change: "regional dimension of" should be replaced by "regional perspective on". It was flexible on that point, on the understanding that the decision would not be taken as a precedent for determining the regional cooperation theme in future years.

19. **Mr. Graf** (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that he did not understand the logic of substituting "perspective" for "dimension". "Regional dimension" seemed to cover exactly what should be dealt with in the dialogue with the regional commissions.

20. **Mr. Miller** (United States of America) said that his delegation also did not understand the logic of the amendment. While the various regional commissions might offer a regional perspective on the themes in question, the dialogue between the regional commissions and the Council did not stop there. The Council itself was a global body in a position to give a global perspective on what was done in a region.

The meeting was suspended at 4.45 p.m. and resumed at 5 p.m.

21. **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan) and **Mr. Graf** (Germany) reiterated the positions of their respective groups.

22. **Mr. Maksimychev** (Russian Federation) proposed as a compromise solution that "regional dimension" should be replaced by "regional aspects".

The meeting was suspended at 5.05 p.m. and resumed at 5.30 p.m.

23. **The President** said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt his proposed oral draft decision as amended by the Russian Federation.

24. *Draft decision IX, as orally amended, was adopted.*

25. **Mr. Maksimychev** (Russian Federation) explained that his amendment had been inspired by a suggestion by the representative of Canada.

26. **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group had joined the consensus on the understanding that it would not constitute a precedent and that, in the future, themes would continue to be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its eighth session

27. **The President** invited the Council to resume its consideration of recommendation 2 of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its eighth

session (E/2006/33), concerning the graduation of Samoa from the list of least developed countries. Since it was his understanding that more time was required for negotiations, the Council would revert to that matter at a subsequent formal meeting.

28. **Ms. Houngbedji** (Benin), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, asked for clarification of the arrangements for the additional meeting and wondered in particular whether it would form part of the resumed organizational session.

29. **The President** reiterated that, since a number of delegations had requested additional time to consider the question of the graduation of Samoa, the Council would revert to that issue at another formal meeting, to be held in due course. He recalled that all formal meetings of the Council convened before the start of the substantive session were regarded as part of the resumed organizational session.

30. **Ms. Houngbedji** (Benin), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that she could agree to the President's proposal on the understanding that such agreement was without prejudice to either the outcome of the negotiations or the outcome of the forthcoming formal meeting. The Group of 77 and China took the view that any decision concerning the recommendation of the Committee for Development Policy on the graduation of Samoa should be adopted by the Council at its substantive session.

31. **The President**, responding to a question raised by **Mr. Miller** (United States of America), recalled that, in its decision 2006/266, the Council had decided to defer consideration of recommendation 2, concerning Samoa, contained in the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its eighth session, to its organizational session of 2007. It was his understanding that all delegations had agreed to devote additional time to the consideration of that recommendation, and he therefore expressed the hope that any outstanding issues would be resolved expeditiously so that the Council could fulfil its mandate and take a decision on the graduation of Samoa.

32. **Mr. Graf** (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that decision 2006/266 should form the basis of the Council's work on the matter at issue. It was quite clear from that decision that the Council should deal with the question of the graduation of Samoa at its organizational session.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.